

118 Third Street
Estill, South Carolina 29918

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

American ingenuity should not be punished. The government's suit against Microsoft is nothing more than an attack on the very creativity and hard work that have made this nation great. I feel that Microsoft has had the wherewithal to become a successful company and they should not be punished for pursuing the American dream.

While I am glad that this suit has reached an end with the settlement that was negotiated in early November, I would rather see the entire thing dropped. I understand that Microsoft has agreed to a number of rather harsh terms because they understand that a quick end to this case is vital to future American leadership in the worldwide technology market. For example, Microsoft will agree not to retaliate against computer companies that use, sell, or promote non-Microsoft software.

Thank you for your efforts thus far in bringing forth a quick end to this litigation. I hope that we can put this unsavory business behind us and that Microsoft can get back to the business that it is best at: innovation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lawton Ocaín

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond